Draft ACMS Performance Specification Comment Form

Organization Name:	CIMdata	**Date:**	2-12-98
Reviewer Name:	Alan Mendel and Peter Bilello		
Phone Number (DSN/COM):	No DSN/734-668-9922		
Email Address:	a.mendel@CIMdata.com		

Paragraph No.	Suggested Change
1.2.4	**From:** ... In the near term, implementing sites will tailor these requirements to meet local needs and to reflect the state of the industry at the time of implementation. **To:** ... Implementing sites will prioritize these requirements based on their local needs and plans for implementing ACMS. Limited tailoring of the requirements maybe necessary by local commands to meet critical requirements and support state of the industry best practices and technologies at the time of implementation. **Explanation:** In the vision statement for ACMS, it is clearly stated that local commands need flexibility to implement based on their local needs and time frames. It is important for the US Army as an enterprise to limit changes to the ACMS requirements by local commands to ensure and maintain an environment where information can be freely communicated and accessed. Local commands should focus on the prioritizing the defined ACMS specifications based on their needs rather than customizing or expanding them. Only mission critical requirements such as, critical functionality needs, changes to best practices adopted by the Army and applicable technology evolutions should be justifiable reasons for performance specification changes.
3	**From:** ...The requirements in this section are intended to be tailored for each local ACMS implementation. **To: …**The requirements in this section are intended to be prioritized by each local ACMS implementation to meet defined needs and time frames. Only mission critical requirements should be justifiable reasons for significant changes to these specifications. **Explanation:** Local commands should focus on the prioritizing the defined ACMS specifications based on their needs rather than customizing or expanding them. Only mission critical requirements such as, critical functionality needs, changes to best practices adopted by the Army and applicable technology evolutions should be justifiable reasons for performance specification changes. Without close control of the base data model (standard metadata) and enterprise processes used by each command the Army as a whole will not be able to ensure and maintain an integrated ACMS environment.
3	**From:** ... These requirements and the demonstration results would form the basis for developing final acceptance criteria.... **To:** ... These requirements will form the basis for developing final acceptance criteria... **Explanation:** Using demonstration results as an input into the creation of a final acceptance criteria has the tendency to bias the criteria towards the product(s) that look the best and/or have the best demonstration personnel. The products must first meet the selection criteria and then they must provide that they do through the verification requirements, some of which are demonstration results.

Draft ACMS Performance Specification Comment Form

Paragraph No.	Suggested Change
3.1.1.1.1.2	**From:** ... an associated database, and electronic displays such as Engineering Change Proposal (ECPs). **To:** ... an associated database, and electronic displays (scanned images) such as Engineering Change Proposal (ECPs). **Explanation:** "electronic displays" is not a common description within the commercial PDM industry.
3.1.1.1.2.6	**From:** ... ACMS shall allow the system administrator to divide vaults into logical partitions. **To:** ... ACMS shall allow the system administrator to divide vaults into logical partitions. ACMS shall also allow the system administrator to define and maintain different security rules for each of these logical partitions. **Explanation:** Allows for further flexibility when implementing the system at a site.
3.1.1.1.2.7	**From:** ...without requiring the user to specify a logical partition. **To:** ...without requiring the user to specify a logical partition. The system will automatically determine the proper location based upon at least one of the following criteria: user ID, client locations, project, data type, server installation, etc. **Explanation:** This allows the "default" location to be determined with some amount of intelligence.
3.1.1.1.2.10	**From:** ... This would create a separate instance of the product data. **To:** ... This would create a new instance of product data that can be linked to the original product data from which it was copied. **Explanation:** "separate instance" can imply a version and/or revision of the product data from which the copy was made.
3.1.1.1.4.3	**From:** ... ACMS shall provide the capability to locate… **To:** ... ACMS shall provide to authorized users the capability to locate… **Explanation:** Accessing enterprise and inter-enterprise systems must always be closely controlled.
3.1.1.1.4.4	**From:** ... ACMS shall provide the capability to locate … **To:** ... ACMS shall provide to authorized users the capability to locate … **Explanation:** Accessing enterprise and inter-enterprise systems must always be closely controlled.
3.1.1.1.4.5	**From:** ... ACMS shall provide the capability to retrieve … **To:** ... ACMS shall provide to authorized users the capability to retrieve … **Explanation:** Accessing enterprise and inter-enterprise systems must always be closely controlled.

Draft ACMS Performance Specification Comment Form

Paragraph No.	Suggested Change
3.1.1.1.4.7	**From:** ... what product structure elements are used in a given product structure. **To:** ... what product structure elements are used in a given product structure. Also provide the capability to determine the quantity and release status of each product structure element, as well as other critical information such as if the elements is optional. **Explanation:** Additional functional requirements that should be expected from COTS.
3.1.1.1.4.9	**From:** ... ACMS shall provide the capability to create, modify, and delete new link types… **To**... ACMS shall provide the capability to create, modify, and delete new user definable link types… **Explanation:** Very few COTS allow the creation, modification and deletion of all relationships within their data models. They do allow such in user definable or sub-classed relationships. Changes to super class data types and their relationship links usually result in large custom systems of COTS that are not cost effective to maintain.
3.1.1.1.4.14	**From:** ... for specific values, ranges of values, and logical combinations using Boolean operations. **To:** ... for specific values, ranges of values, values within a percentage of a given value, and logical combinations using Boolean operations. **Explanation:** Search mechanism that can be extremely helpful when searching for product information.
3.1.1.1.4.16	**From:** ... ACMS shall allow for fill-in-the-blank, wild card, and command line queries. **To:** ... ACMS shall allow for fill-in-the-blank and wild card queries. Command line query capability is also desirable. This capability could be provided through a 3rd party tool. **Explanation:** Command line query capabilities tend to be very unfriendly and no longer well supported by COTS due to market demands.
3.1.1.1.6.3	**From:** ... For example, ACMS should record the time, initiator, and recipient of the transaction. **To:** ... For example, ACMS should record the time, initiator, and recipient of the transaction. A transaction log should be accessible by authorized users. **Explanation:** Transaction logs should have some level of security.
3.1.1.1.6.4	**From:** ... Both predefined and ad hoc workflows shall support voting, commenting, routing and time-out rules. **To:** ... Both predefined and ad hoc workflows shall support voting, commenting, routing and time-out (escalation) rules. **Explanation:** Time-outs are also know as escalation.
3.1.1.2.1.6	**From:** ... ACMS shall provide the ability to associate product data with a workflow. **To:** ... ACMS shall provide the ability to associate product data with a workflow through the use of an electronic folder or packet. **Explanation:** This is typical COTS language.

Draft ACMS Performance Specification Comment Form

Paragraph No.	Suggested Change
3.1.1.2.2.1	**From:** ... and to monitor the workload of resources associated with multiple workflows. **To:** ... and to monitor the workload of resources associated with multiple workflows or integrate with a 3rd party project management and/or resource management tool that can. **Explanation:** Most COTS do not have this type of functionality.
3.1.1.2.2.2	**From:** ... Notification will be to the user that initiated the workflow task and others as required. **To:** ... Notification will be to the user that initiated the workflow task and others as required. Notifications will be delivered through commercial email system integrations. **Explanation:** Need to make sure that COTS have more than their own mail systems.
3.1.1.2.2.3	**From:** ... for capturing information on the performance of a workflow and to … **To:** ... for capturing information on the performance of a workflow (e.g. how long someone has had a folder, how long the workflow took to execute, etc.) and to … **Explanation:** Need some examples so that the vendor can respond.
3.1.1.2.2.4	**From:** ... ACMS shall allow the users to check work queues for any workflow assigned task. **To:** ... ACMS shall allow authorized users to check work queues for any workflow assigned task. **Explanation:** A potential security issue.
3.1.1.2.2.10	**From:** ... ACMS shall provide for electronic indication of approval or authorization. … **To:** ... ACMS shall provide for electronic indication of approval or authorization through a mechanism that guarantees the authenticity of the approver such as a second level password that must be entered for the signoff to become valid. … **Explanation:** Those that approve/signoff must verify that they are authorized. Just logging into the system is generally not sufficient for secure or regulated organizations, e.g., a user may leave their work site while still logged into the system. A second level (additional password used only for signoffs and other secure activities) password provides an increased validation of authorized individuals.
3.1.1.3.1.6	**From:** ... ACMS shall increment the product structure revision indicator … **To:** ... ACMS shall increment the product structure revision indicator based on defined rules … **Explanation:** Rules need to be determined as to when product structures are incremented and at what level in the product structure. For example, do changes to a subassembly drive a change to the parent assembly or does it depend on the type of change?

Draft ACMS Performance Specification Comment Form

Paragraph No.	Suggested Change
3.1.1.3.1.8	**From:** ... baselines using various methods to include by serial … **To:** ... baselines using various methods such as serial … **Explanation:** Few COTS will be able to support all the these methods (serial, date, sets, and lots)
3.1.1.4.1	**From:** ... allow users to relate ACMS controlled product data and product structures to the WBS tasks. **To:** ... allow users to relate ACMS controlled product data and product structures to the WBS tasks. This functionality can either be provided through integration with another 3rd party application or through extensions to the COTS PDM. **Explanation:** COTS do not support this functionality well. Integration is usually necessary.
3.1.1.4.2	**From:** ... ACMS controlled product data and product structures associated with the tasks. **To:** ... ACMS controlled product data and product structures associated with the tasks. This functionality can either be provided through integration with another 3rd party application or through extensions to the COTS PDM. **Explanation:** COTS do not support this functionality well. Integration is usually necessary.
3.1.1.4.3	**From:** ... resources to tasks and track the expenditure of those resources. **To:** ... resources to tasks and track the expenditure of those resources. This functionality can either be provided through integration with another 3rd party application or through extensions to the COTS PDM. **Explanation:** Almost none of the PDM COTS support this functionality. Integration will be necessary.
3.1.1.6.5	**From:** ... ACMS shall provide the capability to print viewable images and redlines. **To:** ... ACMS shall provide the capability to print viewable images and redlines. This capability can be provided by a COTS integrated viewer/browser or through an embedded viewer/browser. **Explanation:** This functionality is almost always provided by a COTS viewer/browser, such as Rosetta.
3.1.1.7.1.11	**From:** **To:** Users will be required to enter new passwords periodically as defined by the system administrator. **Explanation:** Password expiration is very important. There is probably government rules regarding time frame, etc.
3.1.1.7.2.1	**From:** ... synchronize a distributed data environment that … **To:** ... synchronize a distributed data environment (metadata as well as managed data objects) that … **Explanation:** Need to be more specific. Many vendors only provide distributed file storage.

Draft ACMS Performance Specification Comment Form

Paragraph No.	Suggested Change
3.1.1.7.4.1	**From:** ... the ability to create and modify metadata defaults. **To:** ... the ability to create and modify default values for metadata. **Explanation:** Adjust wording to increase clarity of specification.
3.1.1.7.4.3	**From:** ... to customize the system messages and terminology. **To:** ... to customize the system messages, terminology, and on-line help. **Explanation:** Need to be able to do this.
3.1.1.7.5.2	**From:** ... ACMS shall provide controls to protect the system … **To:** ... ACMS shall provide controls (embedded or through an integration) to protect the system … **Explanation:** This functionality is usually not provided directly by PDM COTS systems.
3.1.2.2 – 3.1.2.6	**From:** ... **To:** ... **Explanation:** These configuration requirements are mostly describing metadata that will need to be defined through user definable objects, attributes (fields) and associated documentation. This functionality will most probably not be available COTS, but can typically be generated within the PDM system without too much customization. The exact implementation of these requirements is not clearly stated but that is perhaps done so intentionally.
3.2.1.7-20	**From:** ... **To:** ... **Explanation:** Additional details regarding the desire level of integration will be necessary before COTS vendor will be able to respond to these requirements. Outside of a generic ODBC driver to access commercial databases such as Oracle, COTS PDM systems will need to be interfaced or integrated with these external systems. The detailed specification for the integrations will need to be defined. It would be best if those integrations were standardized across the Army commands rather than each one defining their own.
3.2.3.7	**From:** ... ACMS shall provide a web-browser user interface with full functionality. **To:** ... ACMS shall provide a web-browser user interface. It is desired that over time full functionality is available through the web. **Explanation:** Full functionality is not widely provided as of yet. Yet all vendors are currently working on delivering full functionality through the web.
3.4.2.1	**From:** ... **To:** ... **Explanation:** Combination could restrict the COTS available.
3.4.3.1	**From:** ... **To:** ... **Explanation:** Combination could restrict the COTS available.